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                IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
                    FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON
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     UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
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                     Plaintiff,
                                       ) No. 05-60008-2-HO
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                                        ) September 8, 2010
       v.
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     PIROUZ SEDAGHATY, et al.,
                                       ) Eugene, Oregon
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                     Defendants.
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             PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TRIAL PROCEEDINGS
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              BEFORE THE HONORABLE MICHAEL R. HOGAN
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          UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, AND A JURY
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             DAY 7, REBUTTAL ARGUMENT BY MR. CARDANI
                            PAGES 1 -45
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(Wednesday, September 8, 2010; 2:50 p.m.)
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                      PROCEEDINGS
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             (Proceedings were had which were not ordered
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    transcribed, or have been transcribed and are bound
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    separately.)
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             THE COURT: Members of the jury, we'll take a
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    five-minute health break, and then we have one more
    short argument.
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             (Recess: 2:50 until 2:58 p.m.)
             THE COURT: We'll go back on the record.
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             Members of the jury, Mr. Cardani, under the
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    law, is entitled to rebuttal argument. This is that
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    argument. Go ahead.
                           Thank you, Your Honor.
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             MR. CARDANI:
                                                    Members
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    of the jury, bear with me for about 15 or 20 minutes,
    and then the case will finally be yours. So one more
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    lawyer gets to talk.
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             A few points about Mr. Wax's closing argument.
    We listened to him for over two hours. Unless I didn't
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    hear it correctly, he covered an awful lot of the case,
    but I didn't hear him mention the Noble Our'an.
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             The Noble Qur'an is the defendant, after he
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    started working for al-Haramain, sending to U.S. prisons
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    around this country, in the thousands, 10 to 15,000
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    prisoners, violent people serving time, getting junk
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like this from al-Haramain saying jihad is an obligation for Muslims. Talk about people prone to suggestion.

Prisoners.
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Mr. Wax talks for two hours and you don't hear anything about that. Nor do you hear anything about this. You've memorized some of this book, members of the jury. Islamic Guidelines For Individual and Social Reform. This was a special book at al-Haramain. Not everybody got this. The only people who got this, and you heard it from the witnesses, were the ones who passed the test.

You had to be not only a believer, but you had to pass a test. Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, it's one of his responsibilities, to put this book -- I'm sorry -- interviews into the prisons by the thousands.

The defense witness yesterday told you that as well, Mr. Rodgers. And back they came into al-Haramain. It was a huge project sponsored by al-Haramain Saudi Arabia with their Wahhabi, violent jihad propaganda. They get a foothold in the United States. Pete Seda becomes their man. And out goes this hateful, crazy jihad stuff into prisons.

But not everybody got this. Why didn't everybody get this? Because you can't talk openly about this kind of stuff because you may get in trouble. So

you got to be quiet about it.

And, yes, members of the jury, there are two sides to Pete Seda. The side that when the cameras are on, when the lights are bright, is the smiling, peaceful face of Islam in southern Oregon, and wherever else he can market it. But turn those lights off, turn the cameras off, and get down into room X at 3800, and that's where it really starts happening, because it is there that he is serving the bidding of his sponsors al-Haramain in Saudi Arabia, the ones that are funding his ability to exist as an Islamic charity in the United States.

Two hours we heard from Mr. Wax and nothing about this stuff. Why is that? Why doesn't he talk about the fact that we have Mr. Seda doing direct fundraising for the mujahideen? Daveed Gartenstein-Ross and others were asked to help sponsor, at Mr. Seda's behalf, a mujahideen fighter to go to Kosovo. Gartenstein-Ross throws money in the hat. And off goes a wire transfer of some sort to Albania.

Barbara Cabral tells you she went to the Hajj with Mr. Sedaghaty, big international flight, a big pilgrimage, sponsored by who? al-Haramain.

On the way out of the country, Mr. Seda says let's give our money to the mujahideen. No mention of

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that from Mr. Wax. Why is that?
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The Springfield building, I didn't hear much about that at all. Mr. Seda was in the middle of the purchase of the Springfield building. As Mr. Gorder told you this morning, it was one of the two big events in the year 2000. He knew exactly how much that building cost. He approved the deal.

If you look in those files, the Mr. Kanan files, Pete approved the deal. He made the decision. He's working with al-But'he. He's working with al-Haramain. And the money comes over and he buys it. He knows all about it. Why is that important? And why didn't they talk about it?

Because Pete Seda knows exactly to the dime, members of the jury, how much that building cost. \$375,000. He knew how much that they needed to close the deal, 318,000 and change. He gets the money. He sends the cashier's check off. And the deal is closed.

Why is that important? Because when the accountant Wilcox comes and asks him about the purpose of some of these funds, rather than just be forthcoming and say, here are the records that I have in my possession from Mr. Kanan, which he had, he withheld those records from his own accountant, not telling him what he knew about the transaction.

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Why is that important? Because Mr. Seda told Mr. Wilcox, you know this very well by now, that that check for one-hundred and thirty-one three, that is so important in this trial, went into the Springfield building.
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Why is that? Because Mr. Seda had a motive, a motive to conceal the truth about the transaction.

Now, what you did hear from Mr. Wax quite a bit in two hours is what I'm going to call the blame game.

Mr. Seda has been indicted. Mr. Seda is here before you. His conduct, his activities are before you.

Now, we've heard the defense spend all kinds of time, Mr. Wax talks about, well, Barbara Cabral, she's a liar, can't rely on her; Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, liar, can't rely on him; Colleen Anderson didn't do her job right, only got one account in Saudi Arabia, deficient investigation. Mr. Gorder misrepresents a bunch of stuff this morning to you, so Mr. Wax says, respectfully. And, oh, yes, Mr. Wilcox. And Mr. Owens, who they hired nine years after the fact to try to justify the fact that an Islamic charity in the United States, attempting to fund \$150,000 in an overseas transaction, for whatever purpose, for blankets, for food, for bombs, concealed it on its 990.

I ask you this, members of the jury, if

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everything was on the up-and-up to Mr. Seda and his organization, why not broadcast to the world what a wonderful thing he did in getting $150,000 moved into a war zone for humanitarian relief? Didn't do that.

Nobody knew, not many people. A few insiders knew the real truth. But nobody could know the truth because he had a motive to conceal because Islamic charities can't be doing this kind of stuff.
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If you are sending money overseas, you know there is a way do it, you heard that from Mr. Khan. The annual report of the Islamic Relief Organization is in evidence. Take a look at it. It's impressive. This group raises \$100 million a year for legitimate refugee relief, people in need, flood victims, war zones, displaced -- true displaced refugees and children.

We have vehicles around the globe, members of the jury, we love to give charities charitable dollars to fund these organizations. Khan's organization does it the right way. And you heard what he said. You know, look at the report. They collect money in. They keep all kinds of records. Records have to be kept.

Why are records so important? Because this kind of stuff once it's out there, it can disappear into the Never Never Land of terrorism. This is how wars are fought. The mujahideen are not sponsored by countries.

It's not like Russia who pays its soldiers with rubles, government money. It's not like the American Army being paid with dollars. The mujahideen are freelance fighters that go around the global to promote their terrible version of a religion that has very peaceful elements of it, but their version of hatred, of killing people that don't believe in their religion, they have all these crazy views about women. This is how they do their stuff. Cash. And once cash is released into the mainstream, it's gone.

In the two hours that Mr. Wax was speaking, I counted about an hour devoted to the testimony of one man. Tom Wilcox. What do we know about Tom Wilcox? One-accountant firm down in Medford. Wasn't a battery of accountants. Lots of help. I think there was one accountant and one assistant throughout the entire time. Four-hundred clients or so during that time. It's not like al-Haramain was the only client. He has got a lot of stuff going on.

What else do we know? That Mr. Seda contacted him at the end of 1999, the very end of 1999. And the paperwork is finalized in early 2000. The agreement between Mr. Seda and Mr. Wilcox envisioned that Mr. Wilcox would spend a handful of hours in doing the

expectation was a few hours.

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forms, 990 and the 1023, because, for small charities in the United States, that's the norm. It's pretty easy.

If you are doing things on the up-and-up and the paperwork is prepared by the client, it's pretty easy stuff. Mr. Wilcox had done several of these things throughout his long accounting career. So the
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It's not what it turned out to be because the paperwork was in no way, shape, or form, normal. And Mr. Seda and his organization was late in getting information to Mr. Wilcox. And the information that came in, as we know now, was problematic.

We also know that by the time Mr. Seda got around to dealing with Mr. Wilcox, the 1998 return was already late. The 1999 return was due in a few months. And our 2000 return, October of 2001.

My point is they're already under the gun. He comes into the accountant late. There's a lot of flurry of paperwork that needs to be done. Some requests for information. Mr. Wilcox has got 400 clients he's dealing with. It's the end of the year. 1040s have to be done. He's under the gun.

Now, again, one hour of testimony -- of closing argument spent on the testimony of one man. The Tom-Wilcox-is-a-liar defense, it's a big one here. Trying

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to get your eye off of the ball of Pete Seda and his actions talking about the other people and displacing blame. Tom Wilcox is a liar.
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Now, we know that the defense got everything.

Mr. Wilcox had a suitcase of material. Three binders,

1,000, 5,000, 10,000, whatever the number of pages were,

it was a lot; computer discs full of reams of other

material. This was supposed to be a few hours. It

turned into much more than that. Lots of paper was

generated. The defense gets all of it. The QuickBooks.

The audit trails. The billing records. Enough to make

your eyes glaze over. All of this stuff, the billing

records, the returns, everything is given to the

defense.

They pour over it. They hire expert after expert after expert, hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of hours, a multiplying factor of probably 10 or 20 over what Mr. Wilcox did in the entire time he worked for Mr. al-Haramain, I suggest to you. Pouring over his work. Why? To try to make him be a liar when it came time for his testimony to you.

So how did they do that? Mr. Wilcox agreed to sit down with the defense, as he did with the government. You heard Mr. Matasar, Mr. Wax had a lengthy meeting with Mr. Wilcox. Does that sound like a

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liar? Does that sound like someone who has something that he's trying to hide?
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He is what he is, members of jury. Is he the world's best accountant? I submit to you negative.

He's a small Medford-based CPA with 400 clients. He gets a contact from a charity. He does charity work before. He says it's going to be a few hours a year.

He agrees to do it.

Turns over all of the records to the defense and out it goes. So they pour over the records. And they bring in a full-blown support team. With QuickBooks people to look at every nook and cranny there, Mr. Cone; accountants; and Mr. Owens, the big lawyer from Washington D.C. Dig into everything. And, I submit to you, find a reason to blame other people, to get your eye off of the ball, the defendant, Pete Seda's actions.

So that work is done. Hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of hours. And do they find mistakes? Yes, they do. But use your common sense once again, members of the jury. Does any accountant get everything right? Everything? Every detail? Does anybody in life get everything right? We all make mistakes. Even if we're trying to do our best, even if someone is paying us lots of money to do work for them, we make mistakes. Does it

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make us liars when we take the stand? No. He made mistakes.
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We're not here to defend those mistakes. He made mistakes. He told you he made mistakes. And, yes, on the QuickBooks thing, did he initially tell Colleen Anderson that al-Haramain provided him with the QuickBooks schedule and this building account already done? Yes. But when shown the records, which he didn't have access to at the time, several years after this all went down, yes, his memory was refreshed. Yes, I was the one who coded this and put those checks in there. Based on what? Conversations with my client.

Is that so normal -- I mean, abnormal, members of the jury? Does he have a motivation to conceal, to lie about these things? Is it not normal that when you do something and you are mistaken, and we have all done that, and then later shown something else that refreshes our memory, perhaps by our spouse, yes, I made a mistake. Okay.

Wilcox took the stand, members of the jury, and he told you he made a mistake. It's not like he's trying to hide anything. In all of his glory, Wilcox got up and said, yes, I made some mistakes.

But I submit to you, members of the jury, that on the issues most important to this case, he was

telling the truth.

Mr. Cone, their expert, spent 300 hours or whatever it is. CPA. When I asked him, you saw this check come in, you got the May 14th version of the QuickBooks, comes in, we all agree on that. We all agree that the \$131,000 check is not coded properly from al-Haramain. It's missing. That's a huge check. It's a small charity. That's gotta stick out like a sore thumb. It would to Mr. Cone. And it did to Mr. Wilcox. So what did he do? He contacted the client. Because who knows best about the true inner workings of the transaction other than the client?

Now, sure, you want to rely on information, you want to see computer records, you want to see hard copies and all, but it wasn't there in the additional version -- the original version of the QuickBooks. So he had to ask the question. To who? Mr. Seda, his client.

Now, did that occur during a phone call on March 3, 2000? Did that occur in an e-mail on June 21, 2001? Did that occur when they saw each other at the grocery store on May 17, 2001? Who knows. But what Mr. Wilcox told you is, I talked to Pete. Why? Because the 131 had not been taken care of in the books and records properly, and I had to account for it to do my

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job in preparing the 2001 return -- 2000 return, excuse me.
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Now, the billing records of Mr. Wilcox are in evidence. They show that the billing records occurred for activity Mr. Wilcox did May 30th, June 13th, June 14th, September 19th, September 20th, 24th, 25th, October 1st, October 2nd. This was all billings by Mr. Wilcox to Mr. Sedaghaty for work that he was doing on the run-up to the 2000 return. Our return.

So you've got all of these contacts that are being billed. And then they try to nitpick. Well, which one of these involved phone calls? Which one of these involved substantive work? Which QuickBooks schedule was in play for this? Members of the jury, this is nine years ago. To test someone's memory like that, how can any of us be expected to remember with that kind of intricate detail what we did nine years ago, let alone one year ago or even one month ago?

Mr. Wilcox took the stand and told you that he talked to Pete Seda. And what did Pete Seda say about the check that's very important here, this one-thirty-one three? Funds used for the Springfield building.

Now, we all agree there was no Springfield building account in these QuickBooks things, so one had

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to be done. Mr. Wilcox created this and put the check and others into the Springfield account based on conversations with the defendant.
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This money went to the Springfield building purchase. He creates this thing. And it adds up to \$461,000, I believe. And then Mr. Wilcox told you, I showed this to my client, Mr. Seda.

Now, keep in mind, Mr. Seda, the defendant, knows we paid \$375,000 for this building. Yet he has shown a building schedule that says \$460,000. Tilt. Doesn't work. Add math. Note to self. Talk to accountant. Tell him something is wrong. Didn't happen.

I believe Mr. Wilcox, in response to my question, I said, did you stick this under his nose?

Did he actually see this? Yes. We talked about it. I remember the conversations. I can't tell you if it was on this date or this date or this date. We talked about it. Here are your billing records. Yes, it could have been this date, could have been that date, I don't know.

Was he lying to you when he told you that,
members of the jury? Did he pull this out of whole
cloth? What's his motivation to lie to you? Is he
running an Islamic charity -- charities that are under
intense scrutiny for throwing this kind of stuff around

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the world to fund mujahideen fighters? No. He's a solo practitioner in Medford, Oregon, trying to make ends meet with 400 other clients.
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Now, the \$21,000, likewise, it comes in and it is reported. It's reported in this thing called a reimbursed expense. A big red flag for accountants like Mr. Cone acknowledged yesterday. You gotta deal with that. So it comes in looking like it -- it's just sticking out, \$21,000. We know that was our cashier's check for al-But'he, that was funds used to buy al-But'he.

Did Mr. Wilcox get the right information to Mr. Seda when he asked him about this one? No. Didn't mention the Chechnya transaction. And by the way, if Mr. Seda had truly acted in his mind on the up-and-up properly, he would be telling the world, including Tom Wilcox, look what I did, I fed refugees. I took care of the needy. I, Pete Seda, got \$150,000 from an Egyptian guy, and I got it into a war torn area with my fellow Muslims in need, and I did good.

And, Mr. Wilcox, I told you before, I think I'm under scrutiny by the IRS, by the government, I think I'm going to be audited, keep my books and records clean. If that was his mindset, why not tell Mr. Wilcox all about this? It was a huge deal in his life at that

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time, this money thing. He never told Wilcox about the Chechnya transaction.
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This return, members of the jury, IRS-1 is the subject of the tax count. It's long. I've looked at it quite a few times. The word Chechnya is nowhere in here.

So if things are on the up-and-up, Mr. Seda, tell your accountant about it. Tell the world about it. And this 990, by the way, does go to the world. Can't do that. Why? Because he knows he's up to no good. We caught him in a transaction involving an Islamic charity that can't do what he was trying to do, and we caught him. Took a lot of work. Took a lot of effort, record requests, but we caught him, and that's why we're here today.

Now, Mr. Wilcox, again, testifies. And they have all the information. They've done all of the runup and the investigation on him. And they put him -- we put him on the stand. He told you, in essence, what I just told you. And then he goes on cross-examination. A full court press. To do what? To try to make him appear as a liar to divert your attention and blame it on the accountant rather than the client who has given the accountant bad information.

You cannot expect an accountant to file an

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accurate return if you are providing inaccurate information to your return preparer. It's as simple as that.
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He did make mistakes. A \$4,000 mistake, the 1 percent error mistake, a few other things that the defense talked to you about, Mr. Wax repeated. I submit to you that with all of the time and attention that they flyspecked his work, his caseload of work, things like that are going to happen, and they did. He told you about it. He didn't run from them. He admitted it. Yeah, that was my mistake. That's not on Pete. That's not Pete's fault.

Does that sound like a liar to you? I made this mistake here. I made this mistake here. That's not on Pete. Yep, you're right.

He even admitted a mistake that he didn't make. The defense thinks they get this big deal with that \$2,000 Gartenstein check. Why is that so important? It seems like a little thing. But sometimes little things mean big things. Daveed Gartenstein-Ross told you that the defendant gave him a check for \$2,060. It was for salary. It wasn't for a computer. But that's what Mr. Seda wrote on the computer -- on the check. Mac, purchase of a Mac or something like that. It was in 1999. And we know the check was dated by Mr. Seda

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It was a '99 check. And the defense has this
wrong.
thing. And Mr. Gartenstein-Ross tells us that it was a
salary check, not a -- I'm sorry, it was a payroll check
improperly listed as a computer purchase that never
happened. And that Mr. Sedaghaty was just trying to
avoid payroll taxes. It's a little thing about intent.
        What's he thinking about when he's dealing with
the IRS? Is this someone who is trying to be clean?
Keep the books clean? IRS is going to scrutinize me?
    It's an anti-IRS sentiment.
         So he doesn't want to pay payroll taxes.
lies on the check. And Gartenstein-Ross tells you about
it.
        Now, why do I bring it up here? Because Wilcox
is hit with this check. They think they gotta big
gotcha. Well, if you thought this thing was a computer
purchase, why is not in the 1998 information? Which we
know they've poured over with a fine-tooth comb. And it
wasn't in the '98 stuff. So Wilcox eats it.
                                             I quess I
made a mistake.
        But then on redirect, we show him the 1999
records, and there it is. He did rely on his client's
information when he said, what's this check for?
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Pete told him it was for a computer purchase, and he

makes an appropriate entry in the 1999 records. And

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he's shown that. So he even admitted a mistake that he didn't make.
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Does that sound like -- to you like someone who's trying to lie and pull one over on you? No.

But on the big transactions, folks, keep the eye on -- keep your eye on the ball, please. The Springfield building purchase, when Mr. Wilcox learned about it, he wanted supporting records. Never given to him. And yet he -- Mr. Seda had them. Concealment.

And on the 131 and the 21 that Wilcox found out, the big checks he's got to deal with, talk to his client, concealment and lies at this point. Concealment and lies from your client are inevitably going to end up in a false return. The return is false in the many ways that we told you.

Lines 1, 22, and 57, you've got it committed to memory by now, are false. Line 1 is false because the \$121,000 was backed out of contribution income by Wilcox because of the lie by Mr. Seda to him about it being refunded to the donor. That was what the client said. That's how it was treated. Line 1 is false.

22 and 57 has to do with the money going out because the client tells the accountant that it's money that went into the building. The accountant takes the information, puts it in, and it ends up affecting

falsely lines 22 and 57.

Now, when you deliberate on this return, those are the three lines in the indictment. And you have to agree that a particular line on the return is false to convict him beyond a reasonable doubt. But that's not all you have.

You can look at the whole return. And there are other parts of that return that are false. And if there are other parts of the return that are false, it makes more sense that the other -- that the lines that are charged are false as well.

Chechnya should have been bull horned in that return, because there's a section that talks about humanitarian relief, statement of functions. And there is a \$24,000 entry that has nothing to do with Chechnya. And this is where the money should have gone if everything as on the up-and-up. There would be no motivation to conceal and lie.

The \$21,000 that went to al-But'he, he's an officer of the corporation, whatever that payment was for, if it went to the officer, it should have been reported. It was not. Another falsity in the return.

The return was sent to the client,

Mr. Sedaghaty, and he signed it and off it goes. But

the thing is, they say, you know, he don't -- Pete's not

a detail guy, and he may have just signed it, and off it goes, well, okay, but here is the thing on that. If you know in your mind, as he did when he was dealing with Wilcox, that he had concealed the truth from him about the transaction overseas, then the return had to be false in Mr. Sedaghaty's mind, because the correct information was never given to him. So when he signed that return, okay, he might have not looked at line 1 and said, oh, my, that's false; 22, wow, that one's not right, he knew the return was false, members of the jury, because the essence of the most significant transactions had been mischaracterized. Springfield transaction and the \$150,000 that we have here.

Before I leave Wilcox, when we hire accountants, we heard testimony that it is not an adversarial relationship. You're not hiring an accountant to challenge you on the accuracy of your information. To the contrary, it's a trusting relationship.

Now, there may be some verification requirements on the accountant on occasion, but you basically have to accept the client's statement, not blindly. You should do things like maybe ask for an escrow file. But you have to, at some point, accept your client's word. If you go after your client and

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say, I don't think you are telling me the truth on this,
how long are you going to have that client? Doesn't
work that way.
        Mr. Wilcox made mistakes, but I submit to you
he was credible in eating those mistakes and telling you
the truth.
        Mr. Owens, here is the next part of the blame
game. Well, the return is not false, but if it's false,
it never should have been filed in the first place.
That's a clever lawyer thing. It's a trick. Don't fall
for it. Nine years after this transaction, members of
the jury, they hired this guy that was the head of
Exempt Organizations, and, yes, he did some impressive
work with the IRS, 25 years of service. He spends a
pile of time, associates spend a pile of time digging
through these issues, and they come up with something
that I submit to you is a smokescreen. This should have
never been reported in the first place. Well, why is
that, Mr. Owens? Because it was a conduit, an agency
relationship. Well, what's that?
         Well, when a tax exempt organization here gets
money but it's not really theirs, they are just a
vehicle to send it on to somebody else, a conduit, and
there is an agreement for all of this, then it's not a
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reportable transaction. So this transaction, or at

least most of it, never should have been reported in the first place, so Mr. Owens says.

Well, members of the jury, where is the agreement? Mr. Gorder asked you this morning, I'll ask you again, we've heard from Mr. Wax, where is the agreement that makes this that, makes this a boom-boom thing, that Mr. Seda had no control? You don't see it because it didn't exist.

Mr. Sedaghaty, when he got this money, if it's a true agency conduit, he should have spent \$15, like El-Fiki did, and say, okay, boys at al-Haramain, I got the money. All right, what should I do with it? Okay, send it to Saudi Arabia, all right, I'll go down to my banker, Ms. Ingram, 15 bucks, send that money to -- wire transfer to Saudi Arabia. And we know he's done that before. They talk about cash being normal ways of moving money and things of -- like that, attempting to justify this screwy transaction that I'll get into in a moment.

Members of the jury, you have two wire transfers before you in the Bank of America records where Mr. Sedaghaty himself wired money internationally for, like, 10 or 20 bucks. He knows how to do it. And that's the way it should have been done if this conduit theory was real. But that didn't happen.

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The money stayed here in Oregon under the control of Mr. Sedaghaty. He's the only al-Haramain guy here that's on the account. And what happened at that point? The seeds of a conspiracy, a secret, clandestine plan with Mr. al-But'he, Mr. Sedaghaty, Shoumar enters the picture later on. And what's the plan? The plan is, after Mr. Sedaghaty treats this money as his own and makes a couple of unsuccessful attempts to contact other organizations, including Mr. Khan, a legitimate organization, if Mr. Sedaghaty had taken Mr. Khan up on his solicitation, we're not going to take you into the country in a war zone, al-Haramain, if that's who he was talking to, he doesn't even know who he was talking to, but he thinks maybe it was someone from Oregon, he thought it was somebody in Portland. But members of the jury, if Mr. Sedaghaty had contacted this organization and if this Mr. Khan convinced them to send the money, as a lot of other people do, to the tune of 75, \$100 million a year, give it to us, we'll take it in, we do proper record keeping requirements, we do our responsibilities. We're sponsored by the Russian government in Ingushetiya, we'll do it the right way. And in their pamphlet, they do. Did Mr. Sedaghaty do that? No, he didn't. Не held on to the money, and he tried to direct it other

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ways. It destroyed this Owens' conduit theory. If it was really a conduit, that should have been kept off of the books of the 501(c)(3), then it should have been just simply wired away because Mr. Sedaghaty would have no choice but to do otherwise.

And some of those contacts, incidentally, were
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in the name of the Qur'an Foundation, not al-Haramain.

Why is that? Why didn't he always deal with it as al-Haramain? And he had other people do it. Perhaps because al-Haramain was developing a pretty bad international reputation as being a problem in the area of terrorism, funding terrorism.

How do we know that? The 9/11 report, there is a whole chapter on terrorist financing. How did these things happen? Terrorist financing. Things cost money. People need to live that plan on doing bad things.

People need to eat. People need shelter. People need arms. They need money.

So a big old study is done and al-Haramain is chosen as one of the poster childs (sic), witnesses identified that. So when Mr. Sedaghaty is reaching out to these organizations, perhaps he knows that al-Haramain has some stain on it.

And remember that conversation that Daveed Gartenstein-Ross told you about about east African

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    embassies blowing up? Lots of people killed.
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    al-Haramain is associated with that on a TV program.
    Mr. Sedaghaty talks to al-But'he saying, we didn't have
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    anything to do with that, did we? You heard the
4
    testimony, words to the effect, we have many people
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6
    working for us. Wow, there's a denial for you.
7
             Now, before I leave Mr. Owens, he told you he
8
    runs a shop called Exempt Organizations, did when he was
9
    with the IRS. It's what Mr. Wooten does up in Seattle
    on a day-to-day basis. They care about how charities
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    get their money and spend their money. They have to.
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    That's their job. If you're going to be tax exempt, you
13
    gotta do good things with your money. And this Form 990
    is the primary vehicle for us to know what you're doing.
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15
    And it's also the primary vehicle for what your donating
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    public, because this goes on the Internet, you gotta be
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    on the up-and-up.
18
             Mr. Owens admitted that no matter what, this
19
    conduit theory, agency theory, whatever, no matter what,
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    you can't lie to the IRS on a 990. And if you do, it's
21
    a very important thing when it's talking especially
22
    about an overseas transaction involving 130, $150,000.
23
    It's a big deal.
24
             So what the defendant did through his deceptive
25
    acts with Mr. Wilcox and engaging in this screwy
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transaction is he concealed information from the very organization that we here in the United States rely on to make sure that things like this don't happen (indicating) with tax exempt charities in the United States.
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Now, Mr. Owens, he's looking at a lot of organizations, he has to decide which ones to audit, which ones not. Well, how do you get your information? Well, the 990. We get -- they gotta tell us what money comes in and where it's going.

Well, if you learn that an organization got 150 and masqueraded it into a building purchase, might that get your attention? Well, the form might not, in and of itself, the line 57 thing, might not jump out at us, but if the information came to us that it was a clever design to bury it into a portion of the tax return, you bet we'd be curious about it. It would be an audit, and probably a lot worse, if it came out that this was an intentional act to masquerade and disguise \$150,000 transaction.

In assessing that, members of the jury, don't get lost in this blankets versus bomb quagmire. When you get back there and say, you know, maybe he had an intent to food -- give food to people, blankets to people, or maybe he really did try to buy arms, the

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point of this is, if you are doing things like this as a charity, the IRS's antennae go way up, as they should be, when you're dealing with cash especially. And if you're going to take the position and say, I did good things with this, I gave this money to refugees, blankets, food, medicine, okay, but tell us about it.
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That's what you need to do as an exempt organization. You know in that letter that went out to Pete Seda saying you're tax exempt, it said keep good records, and file 990s telling us what you're up to. What did he do? When the IRS comes in years later and subpoenas records for this transaction when we started realizing -- when she started realizing something was up about this Chechnya deal, record requests went out to the lawyers for al-Haramain, formal requests, subpoenas, tell us about the Chechnyan transaction. Records came in over time. Agent Anderson told you that some came from Saudi Arabia sources, al-Haramain, and others came from sources here in the United States, al-Haramain. Different batches, different time, lots of records. Why is that such a big deal? Because you know them by reference now, AHIF-2 and AHIF-3.

When we caught them, when we started sniffing around this transaction, did you see receipts saying, refugees, here's the purchase of -- like Mr. Khan's

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operation, have detailed record keeping records to show if there is a question about them? No. We're not dealing with exempt organization people. Now we're dealing with criminal investigators.

What's going on in the defendant's mind now when the jig is up? Two different receipts come in purporting to be -- for the -- representing the same transaction. One says 188. One says 186. They are both bogus, members of the jury, false documents.

Signed differently. One's witnessed. One's not. The agreement language is the same.

And incidentally that language is not found in the computers. Who typed those? I doubt it was
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And incidentally that language is not found in the computers. Who typed those? I doubt it was

Ms. Florin who knew nothing about the transaction. They are created.

And they attempt to come up with a figure, apparently \$36,000 came from Canada. This 150. And if you add it up, 186, yeah, that sounds good, put it in, sign it. Agent Anderson told you that \$36,000 never left the United States. The numbers don't add up. \$186,000 didn't leave.

And what about this offset thing that Mr. Wax is telling you about? Obfuscation. What kind of business offsets money for things that apparently happened? Well, I gave you money before, so I owe --

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you gave me some money before, so I owe you some money. And even though I'm not going to send it overseas, I'm going to give you a receipt saying that you gave it -- that I gave it to you. Offset. How about nonsense? The receipts are bogus.
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We've got two different receipts for the same transaction containing different information. I don't -- I suggest to you, members of the jury, they didn't even realize they gave us two receipts. But Mr. al-But'he and Mr. Seda, you know from those receipts, those are their signatures, they signed those receipts on different occasions, because of the -- where the signatures appear. So they had to know they were signing the same receipt twice. And there were no other big transactions, no other transactions like this.

Now, the charges. The judge instructed you this morning on the elements of the crimes that you need to consider before you return verdicts of guilty.

Now, that's a formal word, elements of the crime, but think about it like a recipe. Certain ingredients need to go into a recipe to make the product a good one. So think of the ingredients needed to go into a verdict of guilty on the tax count. What are those ingredients, those elements that you need to find?

You need to find, one, that there was a false

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We've been over that over and over and over
return.
       The guy who prepared the return said it was
again.
       Wilcox. He didn't know it at the time, based
false.
the information on Mr. Sedaghaty's communications, but
they told you -- he told you in the various ways that
I've already gone over, that the return is false. And
incidentally, no mention of Chechnya, so on and so
forth. Check, false return.
         Ingredient number two, signed under the
penalties of perjury. The return is signed by
Mr. Sedaghaty. And it is signed under penalties of
perjury. Check.
         Ingredient number three, that the false
information in the returns have to be material to the
IRS. How is the IRS supposed to do its job in
monitoring charities if it's never told about a
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information in the returns have to be material to the IRS. How is the IRS supposed to do its job in monitoring charities if it's never told about a transaction? Bombs, blankets, medicine, not even told that the money went overseas at all. It's not in there. It's absent. The IRS is prevented from doing its job. And if it had been told about the transaction, in whatever form it occurred, they would have done something about it, and it would have been capable of influencing the decisions of the IRS. Check, materiality.

And then number four, willfulness. And that is

what a lot of this trial has been about. And I told you at the beginning of this trial that that's where the action is at for you. This notion of willfulness.

Because we have to prove not only that he signed a false return under the penalties of perjury that contain materially false information, but we have to show you that he had -- that he did these things willfully.

Basically that he knew he had an obligation to file the return and was deliberate in -- in doing this falsely, this false return.

So how did we prove that during this trial?

And I suggest to you that Mr. Wax has done a very passionate job in trying to keep you from focusing on this. But I have to do it because this is part of the motivation that Mr. Sedaghaty had to file this false return.

And, incidentally, this is also one of the objects of the conspiracy. There are two charges. The tax count in count 2, the conspiracy count in count 1.

And the conspiracy account -- count alleges that he attempted to defraud the United States by depriving the Customs Service of information related to the foreign transportation of money, which I'll talk about, but also to the Internal Revenue Service in doing their job in monitoring tax exempt charities.

You only have to find one of those two objects unanimously. We're going to ask you to do it on the verdict form. We're going to ask you to find him guilty of count 1. And then there are two little checkmarks underneath, did you find unanimously that he agreed to defraud the Customs Service? If so, check here for yes. And the IRS. We suggest that the evidence supports checkmarks on both of those.

And here is why: The tax motive. Exempt organizations cannot fund mujahideen. Okay? You can't -- or acts of violence and things like that, and we got into this thing about the Red Cross and Taliban and things like that. Tax exempt charities, Mr. Wooten told you, cannot promote acts of violence. If you are buying food for the mujahideen, no. Certainly not armaments.

But in any event, tell us what you are doing because if you think you are okay, if you think you are in the proper zone, just tell us about it so we can do our job. Didn't go. Why? Because Mr. Sedaghaty did have a motivation to conceal when he signed that return. What is that? This JC-4 exhibit lists all of these Sheeshaan e-mails and all of the other things in the computers roughly in chronological order.

I suggest to you that Mr. Gorder got it just

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right in telling you that during the time period in
question, January to March 2000, Mr. Sedaghaty was
fairly obsessed with the events in Chechnya from the
lens -- from the lens of the propaganda machine known as
al-Haramain, Qoqaz, Azzam, and these guys, like Khattab
who are trying to blow people up in Chechnya, and asking
people to help fund it, because they have no state
sponsorship. They need money. And he says in his
interviews, Islamic charities have always been the ones
that have stepped up in helping us, but they are gone
now. So out goes the cry across the world to the fellow
believers that are following things like this and
getting things from Mr. Abdul Qaadir Khaliq to take you
quys down here in Saudi Arabia, another al-Haramain quy
sending out the propaganda stuff from Qoqaz and Azzam,
the most preeminent mujahideen Web sites in the globe at
the time.
        MR. MATASAR: Excuse me, Your Honor, I'm going
to object as not proper rebuttal argument.
         THE COURT: Overruled. Please bring it to a
close, Mr. Cardani.
         MR. CARDANI:
                       The willfulness is represented by
those e-mails, the fatwas, the prisoner books, the fact
that he's raising money at about the same time for the
Kosovo mujahideen, the -- after the Hajj with Cabral,
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direct funding, direct requests by Mr. Sedaghaty
himself, doing the work, our Web site, using that
Ptichka, his wife. You've got his wife down there in
Ashland, Oregon, downstairs, room X, probably, doing
translation services for the propaganda machine and
Mr. Khattab.
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This gets so much attention that Khattab from Chechnya thanks them. And Mr. Sedaghaty, we did that trail, calls it our Web site. His wife is doing the services on our Web site, and this big cheese in Chechnya personally thanks him here in Ashland, Oregon. As Mr. Gorder, said this is a charity.

A pattern of concealment and lies is also part of defendant's willfulness. In addition to all the lies to Wilcox, not even a mention to Shoumar -- about this fellow Shoumar. He's doing a lot of the things, members of the jury, that Mr. Wilcox is doing, trying to dig into the details of the transaction.

And SW-43 is the only e-mail I'm going to specifically read from before I sit down. Mr. Wax tried to deal with this. I submit to you he didn't get it right. The date is September 29, 2001. The significance of the timing, 18 days after September 11th, think of the world atmosphere at that point. Terrible, terrible act on our soil. And there was a

question of whether radical Islamists were associated with it or not. That's the message around the world.

So 18 days after September 11th, Shoumar, who has looked at all the books and records, and finds the Soliman money, the 131 and the 21, our money, says I have tried -- this is to Abu Yunus. This is going directly to the defendant here in Ashland and cc's al-But'he.

Talk about a conspiracy. "I have tried during the past two years to my best limited ability to organize the work and make sure that we work together to be precise as much as we can to avoid any possible trails from anybody."

Ask yourselves, who are they trying to hide trails from? This is a deliberate effort to conceal that we found in the deleted sections of the defendant's computer.

Few more things. The FBI, Agent Boyer goes there four days after September 11th, yes, the Springfield thing was mentioned. The money was mentioned to the FBI, not to the accountant. But ask Agent Boyer, did he give you some literature? Yes, he did. Any of this kind of stuff? No. Noble Qur'an?

No. Why? Because the FBI, members of the jury, didn't pass the test. They got the good stuff. They got the smiling, peaceful side of Pete Seda, not the other side.

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That weird transaction, folks, has been talked
about over and over, but I'm just going to say
this about it: If everything is on the up-and-up, wire
the money to Saudi Arabia. Don't -- Pete Seda
preordered $130,000 in traveler's checks. Not 150.
130. Why is that? Because there was a plan.
                                              There was
a conspiracy afoot to move some of this money overseas
in a clandestine fashion at some risk. There was a
plan. Mr. Seda ordered 130 for a reason.
         And then the flight across the world.
CMIR.
      The fact that at least 73 other people knew about
the CMIR filing requirements leaving the country leads
one to suggest that people do understand what the form
says. For everybody leaving the country or entering the
country, you gotta file this form. He's filed it
before. He should have done it then. He didn't.
Because that was his part of the role of the conspiracy,
to conceal this from Customs.
         So when they are at the bank in Ashland,
Oregon, doing it in this screwy way, there was a plan to
conceal this from various facets of the government,
including Customs, al-But'he's role, and the IRS, Seda's
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Mr. Wax takes issue with the records that Colleen Anderson got from Saudi Arabia, the Al Rajhi

role, Shoumar's role, al-But'he.

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records. And seems to suggest that if she was
successful in getting that one account, she was
negligent in not getting others. Members of the jury,
you heard her testimony. It took the better part of two
years for her to get those records. And she described
it as diplomatic and legal back and forth. Two years to
get those records. It is not a walk in the park.
Extremely difficult. As is tracing money.
        Members of the jury, I'll leave you with this:
All the checkmarks are there for you. The false return,
the perjury, the materiality, and the willfulness, the
motive, they are all there. When you think about it,
all of the ingredients for the recipe of guilt for count
2 have been proven, and I ask you to do so.
         When you get to the conspiracy count, it is
much of the same, all of that tax stuff, but in
addition, we have to show that there was a plan, a
conspiracy. And conspiracies aren't written out.
That's not the way criminals act. A secret plan to hide
this stuff, acting with all of these guys but to hide
it. That has been proved, as has the other part of the
conspiracy to hide this from the government.
         This conspiracy was one to deceive and to
cheat, which is part of the instructions that Judge
Hogan gave you this morning, that has been proven.
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Members of the jury, you've been very patient.
There's been an awful lot of testimony. And some very
good lawyering, I suggest to you, on both sides.
                                                  Wе
have a great system.
         It is now in your hands to do your jobs in
sifting through the evidence and seeing if the
government met its burden of proof. I suggest to you,
members of the jury, that we have.
         If this was all on the up-and-up, if he didn't
have this desire to conceal this transaction, to do
something that charities can't do in the United States,
then he should have been very direct and told it to the
world, starting with that Form 990, and everybody else,
and not -- it would been -- instead, he concealed it
from everybody. And we are here today because an awful
lot of good digging went into the investigation, and the
records have been produced to you showing that he should
be found quilty beyond a reasonable doubt to both count
2 and count 1. Thank you.
         THE COURT: Ladies, would you try to pull the
screen back.
         (Brief pause in the proceedings while equipment
is moved.)
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THE COURT: You've heard the argument and heard

the evidence. And in my hand I have the verdict form.

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    And this verdict form has the caption, the name of the
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    case, we, the jury, and so on. Then it says count 1,
    conspiracy to defraud the United States, and there is a
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    place -- a line by "quilty" and a line by "not quilty."
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    You put your unanimous decision on whichever line it is.
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6
    If you mark "quilty," and I'm not suggesting you should
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    one way or the other, but if you do, then there are two
    additional questions. And there is a "yes" and a "no"
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    by each of them. Just circle the one that's your
    unanimous opinion again. Every decision must be
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11
    unanimous.
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             And then on count 2, we have a false return by
13
    a tax exempt organization. There is a line with
    "quilty" and "not quilty."
14
15
             Now, when you get to the jury room, select your
    presiding juror. You can start your deliberations when
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    you receive the verdict form and the indictment and the
18
    exhibits. And they'll be in right away.
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             Before we do that, do you have the oath for the
20
    bailiff, please.
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             (Ms. Wright and Ms. Weller were sworn as
22
    bailiffs.)
23
             THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much.
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             Well, at this time Ms. Palanuk and
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    Ms. Jespersen, you've been serving as our -- I'm sorry.
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I got that wrong. Ms. Mecartea and Mr. Meeuwsen, you've
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    been serving as our alternates. So when you go to the
    jury room, you should get your things and leave.
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             Now, what I'm going to ask you to do, however,
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    is to not talk to others about your work until you've
6
    heard that there is a verdict here. Sometimes we have
    to invite someone back to deliberations. And that could
7
8
    happen to you, but if I don't see you again,
9
    Mr. Meeuwsen, good luck to the Beavers this year.
10
             All right. So the others can -- I told you I'd
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    tell you when it's time to start talking about the case,
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    the time has arrived. So you may -- you are excused to
13
    the jury room, and good luck in your deliberations.
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             (Jury exits the courtroom at 4:03 p.m.)
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             THE COURT: Counsel, take your exceptions in
    addition to those you have already done in writing, if
16
    you have any?
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                           No, Your Honor.
             MR. CARDANI:
             MR. WAX: No, I think we've covered it in
19
    writing, Your Honor.
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21
             MR. MATASAR: And orally at the conference.
22
             THE COURT: Thank you very much. Once in a
23
    while, my bride tells me that maybe we shouldn't go to
24
    that particular party because you don't have good
25
    termination skills. And I'm going to be happy to report
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    to her that at least two more fall in that category.
2
             So that's great. Thank you for your work.
3
             You can look at the exhibits, if you want.
    They've been put together already. And we need a phone
4
5
    number for a 15-minute call. Okay. Thank you.
              (Court stood in recess, subject to call, from
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7
    4:03 until 8:45 p.m. when the jurors were released until
8
    9:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 9, 2010.)
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CERTIFICATE

I, Deborah Wilhelm, Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of Oregon, do hereby certify that I was present at and reported in machine shorthand the oral proceedings had in the above-entitled matter. I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript, to the best of my skill and ability, dated this 9th day of September, 2010.

/s/ Deborah Wilhelm

Deborah Wilhelm, RPR Certified Shorthand Reporter Certificate No. 00-0363